



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **HOMELAND SECURITY UNDER SECRETARY ASA HUTCHINSON HIGHLIGHTS IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS IN ALABAMA** *Announces Training for Additional State Troopers*

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Under Secretary for Border and Transportation Security, Asa Hutchinson, today met with U.S. Senator Jeff Sessions and state and local officials in Alabama to discuss immigration efforts in the state.

Following the meeting Under Secretary Hutchinson issued the following statement:

"Today we announce our continued commitment to enhancing immigration enforcement in the state of Alabama by providing recertification training to the first class of 21 state troopers and establishing an additional five-week course for cross-training a new class of 25 state troopers. This additional training will accomplish two major goals. First, the public will be ensured that our immigration laws will be enforced by those with comprehensive training and secondly, that there will be more effective enforcement of our immigration laws, helping to restore integrity to our immigration system."

Under Secretary Hutchinson also praised Senator Jeff Sessions, "for his leadership and his strong commitment to make this partnership a national model."

In September of 2003, ICE entered into a memorandum of understanding with the state of Alabama under section 287(g) of the Immigration and Naturalization Act. This agreement provided for 21 state troopers to be trained under the Cross-Designation Program through ICE. Under ICE supervision they were trained to process, transport and detain criminal aliens. These troopers successfully completed the five-week training course in which they learned the basics of immigration law and have been granted the authority to enforce it.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*